

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

February 18, 2003 LB 94

that time referred to Natural Resources. Bill was advanced to General File. I do have committee amendments, Madam President. (AM0142, Legislative Journal page 398.)

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Schrock, you are recognized to open on LB 94.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Madam President, members of the Legislature, LB 94 would adopt the Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Contractors Certification and System Registration Act. It's a mouthful. Under its authorizing laws, the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality has for some time had enforced rules and regulations governing this design, operation and maintenance of on-site wastewater systems. It is intended that this Legislature would rely upon those accepted standards in all work done on on-site wastewater systems by documented professionals working in the industry. In other words, we're dealing with septic tanks and waste site systems in rural Nebraska that in some cases now have the potential to contaminate water wells and river beds and streams in the state of Nebraska. And this . . . and right now there are no acceptable standards on what should or shouldn't be the proper way to install and the design and so on and so forth, but this would bring about legislation that would create that. The legislation would provide that the on-site wastewater systems would need to be sited, laid out, constructed, reconstructed, altered, modified, repaired, inspected, and pumped by certified professionals under the Department of Environmental Quality rules and regulations. This certified professional would be certified and recertified periodically following industry work entry testing designs to assume (sic) competence and understanding of construction standards by those certified professionals. This legislation provides for the establishment of an industry advisory board intended to work with the department and its council in the establishment of certified standards and requirements, examination details, continuing education programs and practices. Part of the problem out there is now if you're building a home in rural Nebraska and you want to put a septic tank in or a wastewater site in, you can get three different bids, and maybe one isn't up to standards and shouldn't be put in. But sometimes people will take the cheapest one when it may